FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 MARCH 1984

Lebanon

IDF Redeployment Plan — The IDF is preparing a detailed plan for a new deployment in southern Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported. Nevertheless, no official decision on redeployment has been made and no date has been set for a Cabinet debate on the issue, according to IDF Radio. In a statement carried by Jerusalem television, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's communications adviser denied the television's earlier report that Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens have already decided to implement another IDF withdrawal and to submit a draft resolution in this regard to the Cabinet. According to the Tel Aviv daily *'AL HAMISHMAR*, opinions in the Cabinet and the IDF General Staff Headquarters are divided over the nature of a redeployment.

Security Situation — Clashes continued in and around Beirut and in the Al-Kharrub region further south, according to reports by the Voice of Lebanon, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, and the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio. An Israeli civilian was killed near Lake al-Qir'awn when his truck was ambushed, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio.

Meanwhile, in statements reported by Beirut and Voice of the Mountain radios, both the chairman of Middle East Airlines and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri declared that Beirut International Airport is expected to reopen shortly. However, sources from the Phalangist Lebanese Forces said they will oppose the reopening unless "firm guarantees" are given for the safety of passengers, airport employees, and aircraft, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. A Lebanese Forces official said the airport should not be reopened unless gunmen are withdrawn from the airport road, "elements" reporting on "certain citizens" using the airport are likewise removed from the buildings, a new security authority is established, and Army units loyal to the Defense Ministry are deployed along the access road from the Museum crossing point into East Beirut.

Political Situation — The new government will probably be headed by former Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Radio Free Lebanon stated on 9 March. Earlier, Phalange Party leader Pierre al-Jumayyil warned Syria that if it persists in refusing to leave Lebanon, the Christian side will reject Israel's withdrawal because Israel's continued presence in Lebanon will make Syria "seriously reconsider its presence" there, the radio reported.

In another development, Beirut radio announced that Internal Security Forces will shortly take steps to close all party offices established in West Beirut after 6 February.

Jordan-PLO

PRC President Li Xiannian arrived in Amman at the start of a 6-day visit for talks with King Husayn on bilateral relations and international issues, Amman radio reported. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will also arrive in Amman shortly to meet with both Husayn and the Chinese president, according to QNA. A Palestinian source cited by KUNA said 'Arafat's talks with Li Xiannian will cover all aspects of political and military cooperation.

Meanwhile, a Baghdad Voice of PLO radio commentary criticized Fatah dissidents for meekly submitting to Syrian orders to leave Lebanon and deploy in Dar'a, Syria, despite their "big clamor" about returning to Beirut. The arrival of dissident forces in southern Syria prompted Jordan to strengthen its forces along the border with Syria, the Tel Aviv Daily *HA'ARETZ* disclosed citing reports by West Bank residents who recently returned from Amman.

Iran-Iraq War

Military Situation — Tehran radio claimed further successes in the fighting at Majnun, asserting that Iranian forces crushed another counteroffensive, killing over 700 Iraqis and destroying 20 armored vehicles. A communique broadcast by Baghdad radio, on the other hand, said Iraqi troops and helicopters inflicted further losses on the Iranians.

Gulf Shipping — The Turkish Government is studying the legal implications of the recent sinking of a Turkish freighter in the Gulf in an Iraqi air attack, ANATOLIA disclosed. Two Turks were killed in the air raid, the agency noted. Meanwhile, INA reported the announcement by Lloyds Insurance Company that a British ship was hit by an Iraqi missile near Bandar-e Khomeyni last week. In Tehran, the Iran Insurance Company announced its willingness to insure all oil tankers loading at Khark Island and other Iranian terminals, together with their cargoes, on a 1- percent basis, according to IRNA. The company is backed financially by Iran's Central Bank and will pay for damages to its clients "in a speedy manner," IRNA asserted.

Arab Meeting — Jordan and the PLO have expressed support for Iraq's call for an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers to discuss the Iran-Iraq war, according to PETRA-JNA and KUNA. INAhas reported that Tunesia has also agreed to attend the meeting.

Iran

Judicial authorities have amnestied about 450 prisoners including a number of members of opposition "minigroups," Tehran radio reported. Nevertheless, the spokesman for the Supreme Judicial Council warned Justice Ministry officials that they will be held responsible for any "slow-down" in their activities, according to the radio.

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General Military Conscription Law Amended
LD081852 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Decree of DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium concerning Supplement No 4 to General Military Conscription Law]

[Text] The DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, in accordance with Article 44 of the DRA Basic Principles approves:

Article 1: Article 14 of the General Military Conscription Law is amended as follows: The term of service of unit troops and NCO's in the DRA Armed Forces, without consideration of their education, is a 3-year period. The term of service of troops and NCO's in logistic, (?construction, or maintenance) units and establishments, under the central order of the DRA Armed Forces center, is a period of 4 years.

Article 2: Article 55 of the General Military Conscription Law is amended as follows: The following persons under conscription are deferred from conscription and call-up to the Armed Forces:

1. Students in higher educational institutions until the end of their studies and for a period of 2 years after the completion of their studies, provided the graduates required for conscription and call-up are working in state enterprises and departments, in accordance with necessity, in the important branches of national economy, who, in accordance with their expertise and qualifications, have been so appointed by the relevant ministries and departments. Those who due to any breach of discipline are left in one class for a second academic year; those who refuse to serve in the provinces after the completion of their term of studies; or those who arbitrarily leave their work or are transferred, are deprived of their right to be deferred and will be conscripted into military service.

2. Students of professional high schools are deferred from military service until the completion of their term of studies and for 2 years after the completion of their studies provided the students due for conscription and call-up work for 2 years in state sector departments and enterprises in accordance with their appointment based on their profession and expertise. Students who have reached the legal age of conscription and call-up who, due to any breach of discipline, are left in the same class for a second academic year; those who refuse work allocated to them after the completion of their term of studies; or those who leave work arbitrarily or are made redundant will be deprived of their right to be deferred and will be conscripted into military service.

3. Students of professional, vocational, and technical schools are deferred from military service until the completion of their studies and for a period of 2 years after the completion of studies, provided the graduates of the stated schools work for a period of 2 years in state sector departments and enterprises assigned to them, according to their professions, by the relevant ministries and departments. If they refuse or arbitrarily leave the work assigned to them they will be deprived of their right to be deferred and will be conscripted into military service.

4. Students of general medium schools are deferred from military service until the end of their studies. Those students who have reached the legal age of conscription and call-up who are left in one class for a second academic year due to any breach of discipline will be deprived of their right to be deferred and will be conscripted into military service.

Twelfth grade students who have completed their studies and have reached the legal age of conscription are to be conscripted into military service. After completion of their term of service in the Armed Forces, they will be entitled to enter higher educational establishments without entry examination.

Article 3: Supplement No 4 to the General Military Conscription Law, from its date of approval, is enforced and will be published in the official gazette.

The DRA Council of Ministers, in order to further strengthen the ranks of the DRA Armed Forces, has resolved that the term of service in the Armed Forces by troops and NCO's of reserve units under call-up and conscription is fixed as follows: a period of 3 years, with a payment of a monthly salary of 4,000 afghani during their 3d year. Troops and unit NCO's working in logistic and maintenance departments will serve for 4 years with a monthly salary of 3,000 afghani during the fourth year.

The Council of Ministers has instructed the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education that the ministry, jointly with the State Planning Committee, send candidates who have served their term of service in the Armed Forces for training in other countries or to our country's higher educational establishments. Elections for entry to the first classes of higher educational establishments of candidates from among the unit troops and NCO's entitled to be released from service who are graduates of the 12th class are to be carried out 2 months prior to their date of release.

The Council of Ministers has commissioned the Ministries of Communications, Finance, Defense, and Internal Affairs to prepare a draft bill on the method of transfer of payment and correspondence of unit troops and NCO's in the DRA Armed Forces to their families.

The draft bill will be presented in accordance with regulations.

Karachi: Mujahidin Attack Convoy in Ghazni
BK081557 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] According to reports, the Afghan mujahidin have attacked a military convoy of the Soviet-Karmal forces near the Mukar cantonment in Ghazni and inflicted heavy losses in life. According to one report, the mujahidin captured 15 military personnel, including a colonel and a major, and destroyed a number of tanks.

The mujahidin are also reported to have killed five Soviet-Karmal soldiers and destroyed two tanks in an encounter in the (Budakhel) area.

Reportage on Recent Fighting in Kandahar

SPA Account

LD081515 Riyadh SPA in English 1212 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Islamabad, March 8, SPA — Ten Soviet soldiers were killed and two of their tanks destroyed during two different operations carried by mujahidin inside Kandahar on February 22, the AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS has reported.

Two mujahidin were killed also during these operations, the agency said in a dispatch here last night.

It said mujahidin were free to roam about and carry out daylight operations in Kandahar, Afghanistan's second biggest city.

On the other hand, the agency said the Soviets bombed five times villages of (Ankhouni) and Rawanay on western outskirts of Kandahar during the last two weeks.

Meanwhile, the agency's another [as received] report said nearly 40 mujahidin were released from (Ghaurmash) jail in northern Afghanistan's Badghis Province, bordering the Soviet-occupied Turkestan.The mujahidin attacked the jail on February 12 and after a fierce fighting secured the release of their companions, it added.

During the jail-break, the mujahidin had destroyed a tank and a truck as well as killed six Soviet-Afghan soldiers including an officer.

Nearly 32 Afghan soldiers defected and came over to the resistance side, the agency said.

Voice of Islamic Revolution

GF090949 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Excerpt] In the clashes which took place between our Muslim revolutionaries and the Soviet occupying forces in (Latek) in the Kandahar region, most of the enemy forces which included members of the communist party ruling our Islamic territory were killed and a number of others were captured by our revolutionary Muslim brothers. Still others fled from the area. Similarly, our revolutionary Muslim brothers crushed the groups of Soviet forces which had been stationed in that strategic area.

'Treacherous Elements Crushed' in Khowst

LD081727 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] A number of treacherous elements to the homeland, revolution, and the toiling people of our country, who had been disrupting the peace of the regions in the major district of Khowst, Paktia Province, were recently crushed by officers and men of the units and companies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the headquarters battalion of the revolution defense general command in this district.

A reliable source said that the recent operations launched in this district resulted in the seizure of a number of weapons made in imperialist countries, such as mortars, recoilless artillery pieces, antipersonnel and antitank mines, hand grenades, rocket launchers, mortar shells, and a number of various heavy weapons made in the United States, Egypt, and China.

The source added that in appreciation of the heroism of the officers and men of the headquarters battalion of the revolution defense general command and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, gifts and cash rewards were presented to them yesterday by the chief of security at the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Briefs

Journalist Contract With Mongolia — A contract on journalistic cooperation between the journalist unions of the DRA and People's Republic of Mongolia recently was concluded in Kabul. The contract was signed on behalf of Afghanistan by Hyder Mas'od, head of the DRA journalist union, and on behalf of Mongolia by the ambassador of the People's Republic of Mongolia in Kabul. Experience and cooperation regarding journalistic activities will be exchanged between the unions. [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 8 Mar 84 LD]

Spokesman Denies Report on November Elections

BK071525 Hong Kong AFP in English 1506 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] New Delhi, March 7 (AFP) — A spokesman of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress Party today denied a newspaper report here that general elections would be held in November.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency quoted Chandulal Chandrakar, one of the general secretaries of the party, as saying that the elections would be held as scheduled in January next year.

Asked whether the polls might be brought forward to May or June, the spokesman said there was no such thinking or possibility.

The daily *STATESMAN* yesterday quoted Mrs. Gandhi as saying that preliminary preparations would start later this month and that general elections would be held in November.

Leaders of various opposition parties and political commentators said that Mrs. Gandhi might bring the election date forward.

The last general election held in January 1980 saw Mrs. Gandhi's return to power after a brief rule by the Janata (People's) Party.

Soviet Defense Minister Continues Visit

Urges Technical Exchange

BK080310 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The Soviet defense minister, Marshal Ustinov, has called for an exchange of views and technical know-how for the mutual benefit of the two countries. Such exchanges, he said, will help in bridging the technological gap. Marshal Ustinov was speaking to newsmen at the Madras airport before his departure for New Delhi.

Addresses Military Academy

BK090257 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The Soviet defense minister, Marshal Ustinov, has said the people of India and the Soviet Union are committed to peace. He was addressing officers of the Indian Military Academy in Dehra Dun. The Soviet defense minister commended training facilities in the academy. Earlier, he visited units of an infantry division on training near Dehra Dun.

Meets With President Singh

BK090910 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The visiting Soviet defense minister, Marshal Ustinov, called on the president, Giani Zail Singh, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] today. During their 1/2-hour meeting, they reviewed bilateral and international issues. The foreign secretary, Mr Rasgotra, and India's ambassador to the Soviet Union, Professor Nurul Hasan, were present.

Official on Pakistan-PRC Move on Gilgit Runway

BK090911 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The government today made it clear in the Rajya Sabha that neither Pakistan nor China have any locus standi in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Rahim, said any collaboration between the two countries for building a new runway at Gilgit is illegal. He reiterated that Gilgit is an integral part of India and any such move will have a bearing on our security.

The minister also said that government is making every effort to speed up repatriation of people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka. Up to (?last) December, over 3 lakh and 17,000 people have been repatriated. He said a rehabilitation cell is functioning at India's assistant high commission at Kandy. Over 96,000 people registered as Indian citizens are waiting repatriation, while applications of more than 93,000 others are being processed.

Pakistan Queried on Death of Jailed Indians

BK080906 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The Indian Embassy in Pakistan has been asked to again verify the reported death of 24 Indians in Pakistani jails for want of medical care. The Lok Sabha was informed today that on receipt of the information, our embassy was asked to ascertain the facts from the Pakistani authorities. The Pakistan Foreign Office has orally contradicted the report.

Pakistani Politician Cited on U.S. Influence

BK080330 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan has alleged that the United States is dictating the policies of Pakistan for its strategical gains. Addressing workers of his National Democratic Party in Rawalpindi yesterday, Mr Ghaffar Khan said that the United States did not want restoration of democracy in Pakistan. Pakistan is forced to comply with American terms due to fear of aid flow stoppage.

Student-Police Clashes in Pakistan Reported

BK080859 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] In Pakistan, students clashed with police in Karachi and Lahore yesterday. They were protesting against the ban imposed on their unions. Police used tear gas in Karachi to break up the rally and lathi charges at two colleges in Lahore. Twenty-five students were taken into custody.

All-Party Peace March Held in Amritsar

BK071615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] In Amritsar, an all-party peace march was taken out today to foster peace and communal harmony. The leaders of all major political parties and representatives of religious and social organizations participated. They installed a portrait of Guru Ramdas, founder of the city, at a local railway station. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh this afternoon that this gesture will help in easing the tension and improving the general situation in the state.

The law and order situation in the state continues to be under control with no untoward incident having been reported from anywhere in the state for the 4th day today. Night curfew has, however, been further extended as a precautionary measure in Amritsar, Jullundur, Perozepore, Ludhiana, Kharina, and Patiala.

Punjab Curfew Lifted 'With Immediate Effect'

BK080855 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The Punjab Government has decided to lift the curfew with immediate effect in all the six towns where it was clamped 3 weeks ago. The decision was taken at a meeting of the governor in counsel [as heard] at Chandigarh this afternoon. This follows improvement in the law and order situation and representations from various sections of society. The towns are Amritsar, Jullundur, Ferozepur, Ludhiana, Patiala, and Khanna. Our Chandigarh correspondent reports that the curfew was curtailed to night hours in all these towns for the last 1 week.

Lok Sabha Told Situation in Assam Improved

BK070919 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Six out of the proposed 20 tribunals for detecting illegal immigrants have started work in Assam. The Lok Sabha was informed today that there has been a marked improvement in the law and order situation in the state. As a result, there has been a steady decline in the number of violent incidents.

AFP: Assam Bracing for New Protest 15 March

BK071029 Hong Kong AFP in English 1016 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Gauhati, India, March 7 [AFP] — The administration of troubled Assam State is planning an extensive police crackdown on supporters of the anti-immigrant movement to foil plans for a new protest on March 15, officials here said.

The two groups heading the four-year-old campaign against settlers from Bangladesh and Nepal originally said they would launch a new thee-day campaign on March 15 with mass demonstrations across the state to press the demands.

But fearing that there may be violence during the demonstrations, which contravene prohibitory orders banning the assembly or four or more people, the All-Assam Students Union and the Assam People's Action Council have since reduced the protest to one day.

However State Inspector-General of Police M.I.S. Ayer said police would not allow anybody to violate the prohibitory orders.

Militant indigenous residents of Assam, bordering Bangladesh, are demanding the detection and deportation of an unofficially estimated five million settlers from the two neighboring countries.

Several rounds of talks between the protestors and the federal government have failed to settle the demands. Opposition to the immigrants' participation in elections sparked off violence which left over 1,500-3,500 people dead a year ago.

PRC Trade Union Delegation Arrives 3 March

BK040741 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] A 6-member Chinese delegation led by Mr Ni Zhifu, a member of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, arrived in Calcutta yesterday. Mr Ni is also the chairman of All-China Federation of Trade Unions. The delegation has come at the invitation of the Indian National Trade Union Congress.

Calls on Prime Minister

BK071625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] A 6-member trade union delegation from China called on the prime minister in New Delhi today. The delegation is led by Mr Ni Zhifu, chairman of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions. They discussed with Mrs Gandhi the economic situation in the two countries and exchanged views on the role of labor in development of the economy.

The delegation also met the labor minister, Virendra Patil.

Reports on Brazilian Foreign Minister's Visit

Joint Commission Decided

BK071619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] India and Brazil have decided in principle to set up a joint commission. They are also to have an agreement on cooperation in the field of science and technology. The Brazilian foreign minister, Mr Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, told a news conference in New Delhi this evening that formal agreements are expected to be signed later this year. He said there are immense possibilities of bilateral cooperation in a number of fields, particularly in steel and drilling for oil. Brazil has considerable experience in oil,

and a Brazilian firm is engaged in drilling in the Bombay offshore area.

Mr Guerreiro said he discussed with the Indian side the possibility of cooperation in steel. A study team will also examine the possibility of more exports from India to Brazil.

The Brazilian minister said he had very fruitful talks with Indian leaders and he has given them an assessment of the development in Brazil's neighborhood.

Statement Issued

BK081629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] India and Brazil today expressed their grave concern over the deteriorating international situation and appealed to the big powers not to transfer global tensions to regional scenarios and thus aggravate the existing crisis.

In a joint statement issued at the end of the 3-day official visit of the Brazilian foreign minister, Mr Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, in New Delhi today, both the countries reiterated their firm adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter as an effective instrument for the preservation of peace and security. While calling for urgent measures to halt the arms race, both the countries deplored attempts by some nuclear powers to impose discriminatory restrictions on nonnuclear weapon states.

On the bilateral front, they have decided that, pending the setting up of a joint commission on economic, scientific, and technological cooperation, an interim committee should be constituted. They recognized the need for diversifying imports and exports between the two countries, keeping in view the need to balance the trade.

Indian Cosmonauts Pass Space Docking Test

BK071449 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] The first Indian cosmonaut, squadron leader Rakesh Sharma, and his standby, Wing Commander Ravish Malhotra, have passed the test in space docking. They are now undergoing preflight training at the Soviet Union's Yuriy Gagarin Space Center in Moscow. The Indo-Soviet joint space mission is scheduled to be launched in the middle of 1984.

Minister Refers to U.S. Pressure on IDA Loans

BK020952 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] The finance minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, has described the stand taken by the influential members of the International Development Association in asking India to reduce its share of borrowing as unjustified.

He told the Lok Sabha during the question hour that the fund is meant for assisting the countries with low per capita income and India's share on this basis entitles it to 50 percent of the assistance. However, over the last 20 years it is getting on an average 38 percent of the entitlement. The association has itself admitted successful utilization of the fund on agriculture and irrigation. Mr Mukherjee told the members that, in spite of the U.S. pressure, India would like to tap different agencies for concessional loans and go slow on commercial borrowing.

Poland Offers To Supply Thermo Power Plants

BK071455 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Poland has offered to supply thermo power plants to India in exchange for traditional items, such as, tea, oil cakes and mica to be imported in huge quantities over a long period. Mr (Jasik Lemashenskiy) of the Polish foreign trade company for electrical equipment told newsmen in New Delhi today that Poland has offered 4 units of 200 megawatt and 2 units 500 megawatt to the Government of India. The Polish deputy prime minister, Mr Janusz Obodowski, made this offer in long-term basis when he visited this country recently.

Briefs

New Political Party — In Kerala, a faction of the Janata-G group, led by the state cooperation minister, Mrs Kamalam, met at Cochin today and named it as Democratic Janata Party. It also adopted a new constitution and the flag of the party. The party chairman, Mr Josef Marten, presided over the special convention. [Text][Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Mar 84 BK)

Janata Party President — Mr Chabdra Shekhar was on 6 March declared reelected president of the Janata Party. He defeated his lone rival, Dr Subramaniam Swamy, by 704 votes. [Text][Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Mar 84 BK]

AFP: Two Opposition Leaders Released

BK090806 Hong Kong AFP in English 0749 GMT 9 Mar 84

[By Michel Martin-Roland]

[Excerpt] Islamabad, March 9 (AFP) — The military government has released two more Pakistani opposition leaders, in a move interpreted here as yet another sign that the president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, is preparing for elections this fall.

One of those released was Khan Abdul Wali Khan, the leader of the National Democratic Party. He was freed last night in Peshawar, the northwestern regional capital where his party has a firm political base. His wife, Nasseem Wali Khan, was freed from six months of house arrest.

Mr. Khan was arrested last September, following his return from London, and during the civil-disobedience campaign by the Movement for Restoration of Democracy, an opposition coalition that includes the National Democrats.

The other political leader freed yesterday was Fazlur Rahman, whose Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islami is the only religious grouping in the Movement for Restoration of Democracy. He had spent a year in prison or under house arrest.

The release of the two came little more than a week after Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo and Sardar Sherbaz Khan Mazari, two other opposition leaders detained during the civil disobedience campaign.

With the freeing of Mr. Khan and Mr. Rahman last night, the government has released all of the major opposition political leaders except for far leftists and the Sind Province leaders of the Pakistani People's Party of the late former prime minister, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

Zia Receives UAE Military Official 7 March

BK071706 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] The deputy commander in chief of the United Arab Emirates, Prince Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid al-Nuhayyan, called on President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq at the Governor House in Lahore this evening. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. Punjab Governor Lieutenant General Ghulam Jilani Khan was also present on the occasion.

Ambassador Views Sources of Tension With India

BK030329 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Pakistan's ambassador to India, Riaz Piracha, has said that it is imperative to work with trust and an open mind for tension-free relations between Pakistan and India. In an interview, he said Pakistan has no psychological reservations about India and relations between the two countries should be viewed collectively.

When asked about the reasons behind such tensions between the two countries, Piracha said the basic reason is that there exist in the two countries deep suspicions and misgivings about each other's intentions. He said these misgivings can be removed only when the two countries come forward with open minds and deal with each other with broadmindedness and tolerance.

In reply to a question on Indian concern over Pakistan's nuclear program, the Pakistani ambassador referred to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's recent statement in which he said that Pakistan is implementing its nuclear energy program solely for peaceful purposes and that this program is of a very modest nature. He said: Actually, vested interests who do not want to see peace on the subcontinent are engaging in a type of slander.

The Pakistani ambassador categorically denied the allegation that Pakistan is fanning the Akali movement. He said Pakistan is firmly committed to the policy of noninterference in other countries' internal affairs.

In reply to a question on the Kashmir issue, Piracha said the issue should be resolved according to the Simla Agreement.

Communications Talks Held With Iranian Group

BK040729 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] The 3-member Iranian delegation on communications currently visiting Islamabad has begun talks with Pakistani officials on exchanges of experts and cooperation in production of communications equipment. The 960-channel microwave link now being established will also include a TV relay facility. This microwave link will provide national circuits for Quetta, Naushki, Dalbandin, Nokundi, and Qila Safed and international circuits for Iran and Turkey. New microwave equipment is being installed on this link to replace old installations between Quetta and (Warajah). The project will cost more than 42 million rupees.

BANGLADESH

uf headlineErshad Mentions 'Like-Minded' Political Front
BK090130 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad, has indicated that a political front with all like-minded parties may be formed soon. In an interview with the EASTERN NEWS AGENCY in Dhaka yesterday, he said there has been increasing response from different quarters about such a front. The president said he expects all patriotic people will come forward to join the proposed front.

Gen Ershad said his government is working sincerely to fulfill its commitment to establish democracy and appeal to all for cooperation and support in this endeavor. There is no reason for anyone to create obstacles to peaceful transition to democracy, the president asserted.

OBSERVER Notes Sheikh Hasina's Release

BK081706 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Sheikh Hasina, president of Bangladesh Awami League who had been under house arrest, was released in Dhaka on Monday night.

Communicating this news to ENA [EASTERN NEWS AGENCY] over telephone Acting Secretary General of the party Begum Sajeda Chowdhury said Sheikh Hasina will visit the Central Shaheed Minar at 10 a.m. today (Tuesday).

Former Prime Minister's Arrest Reported

BK081715 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] The former Prime Minister and senior Vice-Chairman of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Shah Azizur Rahman was given one month's detention and kept in Dhaka Central Jail, according to Shah Aziz's family sources on Friday, says ENA.

Shah Aziz was picked up from his residence on Wednesday night by the police. The reason of his arrest could not be ascertained.

SRI LANKA

Prime Minister Discusses Problem of Terrorism

BK081125 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister has said that the government condemned all parties which did not extend their support to solve the problem of terrorism, which is threatening the independence of Sri Lanka. Winding up the debate on President Jayewardene's speech on inauguration of the new parliamentary session, Mr Premadasa said that the unity and support of everybody was needed to solve this problem.

He said that the Indian prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, had recently taken measures to combat communalism and terrorism in the state of Punjab. He said that the leader of the opposition had accused the government of not being able to solve the problem of terrorism due to inefficiency. The prime minister, therefore, questioned whether Mrs Gandhi's government was inefficient as well. He added that Mrs Gandhi had sought the support of the opposition to solve the problem in Punjab. He added that the Sri Lanka Government had made a similar appeal and if this is described as an inefficiency, it is certainly a joke.

He cautioned that the problem in Sri Lanka is much worse than in India. Terrorism in India was restricted to a few states. However, in Sri Lanka the whole country is affected. He added that the foreign minister had stated that the terrorists are being trained in India and other countries. However, the Indian Government had not accepted this charge.

Mr Premadasa said that the president had given such prominence to the problem of terrorism in his speech since he had recognized the importance and severity of the problem. He said that although the opposition may criticize the president's speech today, they would appreciate it in the future.

He stressed that the government would not allow Tricomalee or any other area of the country to fall into the hands of a foreign power or local traders. He disclosed that India was receiving assistance from the Soviet Union for the production of military equipment. The opposition is trying to say that Sri Lanka would become a pawn in the hands of other countries if it sought foreign assistance.

He concluded that the cooperation of all sections was needed to solve the problem of terrorism.

Iran Insurance Company To Insure Oil Tankers

LD081321 Tehran IRNA in English 1305 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA — Iran Insurance Company announced here today that it would insure all oil tankers loading in Khark Island and other Iranian terminals, together with their cargo, with one percent, as it has been practiced in the past. It added that the company had the necessary financial backing for this purpose.

Furthermore, in this task the company enjoyed support of the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as the government's financial support. Payment of damages caused to the ships because of war would be made in a speedy manner, it added.

To this end the central bank of the Islamic Republic has transferred some one hundred million dollars to the account of the company with a bank in London.

The statement further added that the company's international reputation and its sound financial standing, as well as the volume of its insurance fee was the most reliable among insurance companies of the Third World countires. In addition the company in the past one and a half years, has acquired considerable experience in insuring vessels against war damages, it added.

The recent measure of insurance companies in increasing their rates for ships heading towards the Iranian terminals, is not the first of such moves. For instance, last year following a baseless and massive propaganda by the Iraqi regime and the world oppressors claiming that the Persian Gulf was unsafe, foreign insurance companies increased their insurance rate. Consequently the rate got as high as 7.5 percent.

However, the measures taken by the Iran Insurance Company annulled these attempts forcing the rates to fall.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,659

LD081804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1637 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,659 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours, exchanges of fire continued between the combative units of Islam and the enemy forces throughout the operational regions of Piranshah, Sar Dasht, Hajj 'Umran, Marivan, and Panjwin. As a result of our forces' fire on the enemy positions and fortifications, more than 50 Saddamists were killed or wounded and the movements and activities of the Saddamists' vehicles, construction equipment, and infantrymen were disrupted.

On the border fronts of Ilam, Qasr-e Shirin, Dehloran, and Paveh, enemy patrols several times tried to penetrate the defense positions of our forces. But thanks to the vigilance and timely fire of the combatants of Islam, they fled every time, suffering losses and casualties.

Exchanges of fire continued in the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational zones. Our combative units set fire to and destroyed 24 enemy slit trenches and foxholes, 4 observation posts, 1 ammunition dump, 1 mortar launcher, 1 heavy machine gun,and 1 heavy vehicle to the west of the Arvand Rud and killed or wounded 10 Saddamist mercenaries.

Yesterday the city of Abadan became the target of the enemy's long-range weapon fire. As a result, 10 houses, 9 shops, and 1 mosque were damaged.

15 Iraqi Officers, 120 Soldiers Surrender

GF081952 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Reports from Basra confirmed that 15 Iraqi officers and 120 soldiers have surrendered, with all their weapons, to the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries after the recent attacks by the Islamic combatants.

Iraqi Revolutionaries Set Fire to Refinery

GF090746 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] In their operations, Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries set fire to the Iraqi oil refinery, Al-Hadithah, destroying part of this refinery. The fire raged in most of the storage tanks, raging in parts of it for a few days.

A source close to the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, in reporting this, says that the regime ruling in Iraq — after the escalation of operations of Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries — sentenced to death a number of elements of Iraqi military police and the guards of the Al-Hadithah refinery after they were convicted of inadequacy in carrying out their duties. They were executed in the refinery compound. Saddam's regime has also arrested a number of guards of this refinery and their fate is still unknown.

Vienna Doctors To Examine Chemical Weapons Victims

LD081516 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] According to our correspondent, the Martyr's Foundation of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced:

Two of our brothers, who were injured in the bombardment of chemical weapons by the Zionist- Ba'thist regime of Iraq on the fighting fronts of the battlefield of truth against falsehood and who were sent by this foundation to Sweden and Austria, have attained the lofty status of martyrdom, despite efforts by the doctors treating them, as a result of the severity of the injuries inflicted by chemical bombs.

Mr Karrubi, the imam's representative and Marty's Foundation supervisor, who travelled to several European countries to arrange treatment for the wounded sent abroad, has given the doctors permission to carry out any kind of examination with the

aim of revealing as much as possible the antihuman crimes of the ruling regime in Baghdad.

According to this report, following tests carried out on the injured sent to Austria, Radio Austria broadcast the views of the Red Cross commission, as well as those of the doctors carrying out the treatment to the effect that the Baghdad regime recently used poisonous gases in the war. The bodies of the two martyrs, Hoseyn Ebrahimi and Haydar Abdedi, will be flown to Tehran during the next few days.

Victim Dies in Stockholm

LD091104 Tehran IRNA in English 0956 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Stockholm, March 9, IRNA — Nineteen-year-old Iranian combatant Ali Sarjani passed away early this morning at Stockholm's Upsalaye hospital after suffering from severe chemical posioning.

He was the second Iranian combatant martyred by Iraqi chemical poisoning in Sweden. Another combatant was martyred for the same ailment in Austria earlier this week.

Martyr Sarijani had been flown from Tehran to the hospital here eight days ago for treatement of severe chemical poisoning. He died at 2 am (Tehran local time) today.

Martyr Sarijani was a combatant from the northern Iranian town of Qa'enshahr and was contaminated by Iraqi chemical bombings about two weeks ago in the Khaybar operational region in southeast Iraq, along with hundreds of other combatants.

Commentary Views Arab Moves To End War

GF090810 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Political circles talk about a new attempt to save the aggressive regime in Baghdad under names of mediation and ending the war. It seems that those who are carrying out these attempts and making these efforts have come to understand an indelible fact that they are using the last card for the sake of peace and, as the facts show, this attempt will be the last one. That is why they are trying to provide everything necessary to ensure success of these attempts.

The new attempt is led by the Saudi regime due to its possession of bank notes and burnt papers of groups which claim to be unbiased, knowledgeable, and religious. The godfather of this attempt — as is known to all — is Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, who some press circles call the secretary general of Arab fragmentation due to his stands on fateful issues.

The new attempt calls for a new way of ending the war: calling Muslim clergymen in some Islamic countries to visit Tehran and Baghdad to reach a cease-fire.

The Islamic Republic of Iran — from its wide experience in this kind of political action — can from the first glance distinguish every action regardless of its kind and goal. It can distinguish very easily the one who comes to Tehran out of his concern for Muslim blood from the one who comes out of his concern to save Saddam's regime from an inevitable collapse. It welcomes all who want to come for whatever goal, and this is a firm stand which Iran has proved through its welcome of all mediation delegations without exception. However, language differs in each case according to the goals and intentions of the effort. When the attempt is to save the aggressor and forego his punishment, the Islamic Republic of Iran has its own language in confronting this kind of attempt because it is speaking the language of millions of its people and is expressing their feelings and desires and because its language cannot express more than one stand which remains firm with the passage of time. It is excused for not extending any help to those who are trying to save the sinful party from punishment because any help of such kind is an actual participation in saving Saddam's regime.

This is our reply to everyone who wants to save the aggressor. As for those who are concerned with Islamic and humanitarian issues and those who feel that this war is a dissipation of nation's energies and are volunteering to end it, we tell them: Come and put your hands in the Islamic Republic's hands to end the war because we are yearning for peace and stability more than anyone else.

The Islamic Republic has made incessant efforts to end the war and to bring the region back to peace and security. This can only be achieved when the roots of the aggressor are exterminated and when the aggressors' hands are cut off. Without this, peace cannot be achieved and stability cannot prevail. The Islamic Republic calls on all conscientious people to unite to end the war in a logical and reasonable way.

Free Voice of Iran Cites Increased Anger Over War

GF041812 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] According to reports from our correspondents across the country, contrary to the regime's propaganda uproar and the repeated invitation by its leaders to the people, Iranian families' concern for the life of their children who have been sent to the fronts increases each day. All reports indicate that the anger of the people of our homeland over the forcible dispatch of young children from towns and villages has increased. The leaders of the regime have not paid any attention to the Armed Forces commanders in the latest war operations and, by using the guards, have managed to murder large groups of our youths who lacked even the most basic military training as a result of the complete lack of any basic plans in the war.

According to our correspondent in Mazandaran, the people of Babol, Amol, Babolsar, and villages surrounding Mahmudabad and [name indistinct] have openly opposed the wave of guards and mobilization personnel coming to their houses and in a surprising manner have formed a resistance against mobilization members to stop sending children to the fronts. Sporadic demonstrations also broke out in Tehran in opposition to the war in its

present criminal manner because the children of the people of Iran have become cannon fodder.

There is a possibility that the people of Kermanshah and western Iran may increase their unrest against the regime. While Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani claimed today that there is no unrest in Iran and that people in the war zones are prepared to cooperate with the regime, our correspondent from Khuzestan reported that following the intensification of the war and the mobilization of 500,000 people by the Islamic regime, people in the war regions have become fearful and have tried to leave their towns and villages. The guards, however, stopped them and did not allow these oppressed people to leave the war-stricken towns and villages. In the meantime, an Iraqi threat to bombard the Iranian border region has increased the tension and the angry people of the region keep asking when Ayatollah Khomeyni is going to end the war.

NVOI Commentary Urges Settlement of War Issue

TA072045 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary: "Ending War of Fratricide Is Demand of Entire Iranian People"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: In an official letter to the United Nations Organization, Iran resolutely protested against the military presence and expansion of U.S. war forces in the Persian Gulf. This letter, signed by Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was sent to the UN secretary general.

Truly, U.S. imperialism has willfully declared the Persian Gulf region as an area of its vital interests and is constantly escalating its military presence and is getting prepared to launch a direct aggression. U.S. media sources themselves are acknowledging that there is almost no doubt that should the need arise the United States will use military force in this region.

Imperialism is fanning the flames of the imposed war between Iran and Iraq to have a pretext for direct aggression in the region. In preparation for this adventurism, Washington does not even stop at confronting the world with a great calamity. There exist indisputable documents and evidence that although U.S. imperialism has apparently boycotted the sale of arms to Iran, it actually is selling hundreds of millions of dollars worth of arms and ammunition to the Islamic regime of Iran through Israel and South Korea and in many cases without intermediaries. Therefore, the question that arises is whether Velayati's letter to the UN secretary general is not aimed at deceiving public opinion and concealing the Islamic regime's collusion with those whom Ayatollah Khomeyni has called the No 1 enemy of Islam.

This futile and destructive war is causing innumerable calamities for our people. Hundreds of thousands of our youths and youngsters are getting killed and maimed. The regime's leaders are even sending children to the war's slaughterhouse. Millions of our compatriots have left their homes and have become refugees living in extremely difficult and intolerable conditions. On the basis of some statistics, currently the material losses of this war of fratricide have reached more than $200 billion. The war's expenditures swallow more than one third of the country's total budget.

With respect to domestic policy, this war is consolidating and stabilizing further the positions of rightist forces, and these forces are striving to destroy the anti-imperialist, antidespotic,and popular nature of the revolution and to establish and consolidate the antipeople and capitalist dependent system.

Before it is too late, the people want the war to end and peace and calm to be established between Iran and Iraq. For a long time now, the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Conference Organization, and other international organizations have been exerting all their efforts to end the war and to establish peace. Why do leaders of the Islamic regime not respond positively to these calls? Why have all the efforts of the UN secretary general to send a UN delegation to inspect the areas devastated by the war remained futile and in vain? Why do leaders and rulers of the Islamic regime raise obstacles in the face of all these efforts and refuse to understand that a solution to these problems is not and will never be possible through war?

The only way to end the deadly and calamitous war is by sitting down at the negotiating table and reaching a political agreement. The unanimous majority of our compatriots, who do not want to die for the antipeople and antinational goals of the leaders and officials of the regime ruling in our country, definitely desire this course. Currently they have reached the conclusion that the leadership, due to its class nature and its overt and covert dependence, cannot solve the problem. It is the people themselves who should and can resolve this issue as well as other issues of our homeland.

Khamene'i Urges Nation To Remain Vigilant, Aware

LD081839 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Several members of the Islamic Republic Party who were active in the celebrations marking the anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as members of the party's security unit met President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i before noon today.

The president of the Supreme Defense Council said during this that world arrogance had suffered a severe blow from the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: The (?dangerous) weapon used by the world's oppressive powers has been hit by blows inflicted by the Islamic Republic of Iran. They are concerned and worried about our revolution and presence on the world's vast political and economic scenes and thus they cannot wait to retaliate. Of course, we will not allow them and will divert those onto their own heads. [as heard]

The president stressed: Our nation must remain vigilant and aware because world arrogance, using every possible means, has today entered the battlefield, both openly and in secret. The reason for this development is that it sees the revolution has the upper hand in capacity and quality. The reason that it is not using anything against the revolution is that it is incapable; otherwise it would not hesitate to use anything. [as heard]

Concluding his remarks, the president said: World arrogance and superpowers have entered every battlefield as far as they could. But everywhere — the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, and even inside our own country — they have been dealt a severe blow and have been forced to retreat. And this is not the end of the story; we have to deal them such a blow that they will never ever even think of returning again.

Stressing that to deal such a blow all fists must be clenched, Khamene'i added: Everyone must do whatever they can for the revolution and this action must come with firmness and sincerity so that the enemy's head is smashed.

Amnesty, Justice Ministry 'Slow-Down' Reported
LD081248 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Our reporter has sent us a report from today's session of the Supreme Judicial Council:

[Begin recording] With the approval of the imam of the nationand on the basis of a proposal by the Supreme Judicial Council, about 450 ordinary prisoners as well as those belonging to minigroups were amnestied.

Referring to the reports received about the slow-down by some of the personnel of the Ministry of Justice in Tehran and provincial towns and emphasizing that at this particular point in time there is the need for greater activity even after office hours and while praising those employees of the Ministry of Justice who perform their duties even after office hours, [spokesman of the Supreme Judicial Council] Mr Moqtada'i, addressing the heads of the Ministry of Justice on behalf of the Supreme Judicial Council, announced that they will be held responsible for these reports concerning a slow-down.

Former Member Discloses KDP 'Crimes'
LD051857 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Urumiyeh, March 5, IRNA — A member of the outlawed Kurdish Democratic Party recently arrested in Oshnaviyeh in W. Azarbayjan Province, disclosed the crimes perpetrated by the KDP here today. He said that the Ba'thist regime of Iraq which praised the Muslim Kurds of Mahabad, had eventually revealed its true outlooks to the Muslim people of Kordestan Province, by its bombarding of the city.

Talking here today, in a ceremony at the Jame Mosque, which was held upon his own request the ex-member of the KDP stressed that the Muslim people of Kordestan should beware of the propaganda of lackey grouplets. He said leaders of these anti-revolutionary grouplets are aligned with hostile foreign powers and wish to blunt the people's zest for Islam and blunt their determination for safeguarding their freedom and their independence.

Montazeri Meets Representative From Kordestan
GF051946 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Grand Ayatollah Montazeri has received in the holy city of Qom Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi, the imam's representative in the areas inhabited by brother Kurds, and Friday imams from Kahnuj, Nur, and Khodabandeh. During the meeting, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri received from Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi a report on the activities of the great Islamic center in Kordestan.

Bulgarian Transport Minister Arrives 4 March
LD042102 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Bulgarian minister of transport and his delegation arrived in Tehran today in order to expand relations between Iran and Bulgaria in the field of transport.

Commerce Ministry Talks
GF051830 Tehran IRNA in English 1709 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA — Bulgaria's minister of transportation, Yasil Tsanov, in a meeting with a highranking Iranian commerce ministry official, Qoli-Baigiyan, expressed his country's desire for purchasing non-oil products from Iran and expressed interest in furthering cooperation between the two countries in the fields of surface transportation.

In this meeting, the Bulgarian minister, also handed over an official message from his country's foreign trade minister to the Iranian official extending an invitation to the Iranian commerce minister, Hassan Abedi-Ja'fari, for a visit to Bulgaria.

Trade exchanges between Iran and Bulgaria, hit $400 million last year, and ensured a trade balance between the two countries throughout the year.

The Bulgarian trade delegation arrived here Sunday, March 4.

Meeting on Transportation
GF051840 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA — Bulgaria's minister of transportation, Vasil Tsanov now heading an economic delegation held talks with his Iranian counterpart Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan here today.

During the meeting Nezhad-Hoseyniyan said throughout the war the Islamic Republic of Iran had an eye to construction and development of the country and to that end it had achieved unprecedented success. One such achievement, he said, was the building of Shahid Beheshti port in Chahbahar within a period of 11 months at which ships of up to 25,000 tons may berth.

He said the level of goods displacement in the post revolution era was by far higher than at the Shah's time despite limited port

facilities and that the volume of goods unloaded during the past year showed a 50 percent increase as compared to the year before.

In the field of air travel, Nezhad-Hoseyniyan went on, the Islamic Republic of Iran had also made drastic progress and some 3 million passengers were flown by Iran-Air from March 21 to December 21 last year.

He also stressed on the need for expanding cordial ties between Iran and Bulgaria in all fields.

In response, the Bulgarian minister welcomed expansion of mutual relations especially in the field of transportation and expressed his country's readiness to continue cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran toward the development of the country.

Session With Prime Minister

LD081632 Tehran IRNA in English 1454 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA — Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi in a meeting with the visiting Bulgarian minister of transporation, Vasil Tsanov, here today said that despite all problems, in post-revolutionary period more than any other time attention had been paid for economic development of the country. International pressure exerted on Iran, has not prevented it from fundamental reconstruction of its economy.

During the meeting, which was also attended by the Iranian Minister of Roads and Transportation Hadinezhad-Hoseynian, the Bulgarian minister talked about relations of the two countries in the fields of transportation and port facilities.

The Bulgarian official further praised achievements of the Iranian experts in road building and industries.

Prime Minister Musavi referring to mutual ties said that their further expansion depended on understanding of mutual capabilities and possibilities as well as a trade balance. He then added that Iran, despite problems caused by the Iraqi imposed war and other problems, has concentrated on economic development.

The Bulgarian minister of transportation heading a delegation arrived in Tehran on March 4.

Talks With Industries Minister

GF081732 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA — The visiting Bulgarian minister of transportation, Vasil Tsanov, met and talked with the Iranian minister of heavy industries, Behzad Nabavi, here today.

Nabavi stressed the need for further consolidation of mutual relations. The Bulgarian minister of transportation, while announcing readiness of his country for transfer of technical know-how, called for further expansion of mutual technical and economic relations.

Iranian and Bulgarian delegations during past year in exchange of visits, studied possibilities of expansion of mutual relations and volume of trade between the two countries last year (ended March 20, 83) amounted to more than 400 million dollars. The trade items were mainly in industrial, agricultural, energy and transportations fields.

Protocol on Cooperation

LD081838 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The visiting Bulgarian transport minister was received this afternoon by Minister of Roads and Transport Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan. The meeting was attended by members of the visiting Bulgarian delegation and Road and Transport Ministry under secretaries and advisers. After talks between the two sides on the existing bilateral cooperation and the prospects for their expansion, a protocol on cooperation in transportation was signed.

In the protocol, the two sides express satisfaction with existing cooperation and their desire for expansion of cooperation in transportation.

This morning the visiting Bulgarian Transport minister and his deegation was received by Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi. Welcoming the Bulgarian minister and his delegation, Mr Nabavi stressed Iran's desire for expansion of bilateral ties.

In reply, the Bulgarian transport minister expressed his country's desire for transfer of technical knowledge and called for an expansion of bilateral economic ties.